

these beautiful young Americans rest in peace. I also continue to pray for those who have been wounded in this conflict. I wish them the very best as they recuperate from their injuries.

I hope that all of our brave young women and men serving abroad will return home safely. They deserve to be relieved soon. Many have been there much longer than they anticipated. Their families need them.

They face an extremely dangerous situation. Many say they are more fearful now than they were in the height of the war.

I agree with those who are calling for the peacekeeping troops to be an international force. That would ease the burden on our men and women in uniform and would also make them less of a target.

There is no reason that this shouldn't be done as soon as possible so that I and others do not have to come to the Senate floor for the purpose of delivering painful and heartbreaking eulogies.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

IN MEMORIAM OF EUGENE AUGUSTINE JENKINS, JR. OF MARYLAND

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I would like to notice the passing this week of Eugene Augustine Jenkins, Jr. of Maryland, a loyal Senate staff member and legal counsel to several senators over the course of almost four decades. Gene Jenkins came to the Senate in 1953 after serving in the Air Force as an Assistant Judge Advocate General from 1951 to 1953, and after receiving bachelor and law degrees from Georgetown University. He worked for Senators J. Glenn Beall and Charles McC. Mathias of Maryland, Senator Winston Prouty of Vermont and Senator Roman Hruska of Nebraska.

During his long years of service, Gene Jenkins garnered a reputation not only as a fine lawyer but also as the most meticulous historian and archivist that a Senator could hire to prepare their historical records and papers. A Senator who hired Gene Jenkins would have to hid the fact by hiding Jenkins' office because Jenkins' reputation was so well known that if a Senator had hired him, it clearly signaled that the Senator was about to retire.

A member of the family that once owned Jenkins Hill, which we now call Capitol Hill, Gene Jenkins not only served the Senate modestly but he was a public servant and good citizen in the truest sense, dedicating himself to numerous voluntary organizations, including his beloved Society of the Cincinnati and the Stewards of Georgetown. He was devoted to his church and volunteered for many years with Mother Theresa's Sisters of Charity. He will be buried this coming Monday at St. Joseph' Parish in southern Maryland, one of the oldest Roman Catholic

churches in North America, near his family home in Pomfret where the Jenkins family has been buried for generations—a final resting place befitting a historian. May he rest in peace.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, earlier this week, I voted in favor of invoking cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 11, the Patients First Act of 2003. My vote was not an endorsement of S. 11 as it was introduced in the Senate. In fact, I have concerns about various aspects of the bill—including the \$250,000 cap on noneconomic damages—and I anticipate supporting amendments to S. 11 if the Senate has an opportunity to fully debate this legislation.

However, I do believe that reform of the medical liability system should be part of a comprehensive response to surging medical malpractice premiums that endanger Americans' access to quality medical care by causing doctors to leave certain communities or cease practicing medicine altogether. For this reason, I voted for cloture on S. 11 in an effort to move the debate forward.

I commend Senator FEINSTEIN of California for working with the majority leader to craft a bipartisan proposal for reform, and I am hopeful that they will revive their discussions in the near future.

SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I wish to discuss S. 982, the Syria Accountability Act. Senator SANTORUM and I introduced this legislation on May 1. In just over 2 months, this bill has received 63 cosponsors.

After discussing this issue with Senator LUGAR, the chairman of the Senator Foreign Relations Committee, Senator SANTORUM and I have decided against offering this legislation as an amendment to the State Department authorization bill.

Senator LUGAR has agreed to hold a hearing in his committee on the issue of Syria in the near future. I am very grateful for his cooperation. The Syria Accountability Act would expand U.S. diplomatic and economic sanctions against Syria unless a certification can be made that Syria no longer supports terrorism, has withdrawn from Lebanon, and has ended its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

The legislation does not in any way advocate the use of force against Syria. The goal is to give the President and the Secretary of State the ability to exert economic and political leverage on Syria because of the serious policy concerns we have with the Syrian government.

It is well known that terrorist organizations like Hizballah, Hamas, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine maintain offices, training camps, and other facilities on Syrian territory and in areas of Lebanon occu-

pied by the Syrian armed forces. This bill addresses this issue by confronting the Government of Syria in a diplomatic way that shows the seriousness of our concerns.

The Syria Accountability Act of 2003 would impose various sanctions on Syria, including a prohibition on the export of defense and dual-use items. In addition, the act requires the President to impose two or more of the following sanctions: 1, prohibiting the export of products of the U.S. other than food and medicine to Syria, 2, prohibiting U.S. businesses from investing or operating in Syria, 3, restricting Syrian diplomats in Washington, DC and at the United Nations to travel only within a 25-mile radius of Washington, DC or the United Nations, respectively, 4, reducing U.S. diplomatic contacts with Syria, and 5, blocking transactions in any property in which the Government of Syria has any interest.

The President is authorized to waive any or all of these five sanctions if it is in the national security interest of the United States. It is imperative that we hold all nations that are responsible for the proliferation of international terrorism and regional instability in the Middle East fully accountable for their actions. If we do not, the credibility of our antiterrorism efforts diminishes, along with our chances for victory over terrorism and for truly positive change in the Middle East. I thank the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee for his assistance.

HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS ON JULY FOURTH

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and applaud VFW Post 2164 of Wheaton, IL for sponsoring the Moving Wall in Wheaton during its Independence Day celebrations from June 30 to July 6 this year. I had the honor of marching in the Wheaton July 4th parade last Friday and viewing the Moving Wall. I was especially impressed by the community's tribute to fallen Vietnam veterans that was delivered at the parade reviewing stand.

The Moving Wall is a half-sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial here in Washington. The Memorial was dedicated in 1982 in honor of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War. The black granite wall, engraved with the names of those who gave their lives and those who remain missing, serves as a somber reminder of the costs of war in American lives and treasure.

The idea of a moving wall was conceived by Vietnam veteran John Devitt while attending the Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedication in 1982. Devitt's idea was deeply personal. He had been out of work when the wall was dedicated and had made the trip with financial help from family and friends. "There were millions of people who would never be able to come to Washington," he later explained: "I wanted

them to be able see and feel what I had." Mr. Devitt accomplished his mission as millions of people in hundreds of American communities have visited the Moving Wall during its 20 years of existence.

The Moving Wall was built by Devitt, Norris Shears, Gerry Haver and other Vietnam veterans, and was displayed for the first time in Tyler, TX in October of 1984. Currently, there are two Moving Walls, which crisscross the country from April to November each year.

The 462-strong VFW Post 2164, commanded by Korean War veteran Sonny Carson, and the citizens of Wheaton, IL are to be commended for raising the \$26,000 required to bring the Wall to Wheaton. The Wall's presence in Wheaton was a particularly poignant event as the names of 14 of its sons are engraved upon the Wall's granite face, including a Medal of Honor recipient, James Howard Monroe.

The goal of bringing the Moving Wall to Wheaton was to help close old wounds, and to educate the community about the war in Vietnam and its profound effect on our Nation and our veterans. It is my pleasure to congratulate the members of VFW Post 2164 and the citizens of Wheaton for achieving that goal, and for helping the rest of us honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, my job as a Senator is to help protect and defend the freedoms of all Americans. Among the most basic freedoms are those we most often overlook: the freedom to choose where we live—for example, among family and friends and not among strangers—the freedom to walk down your neighborhood street, and not in a restricted courtyard; and the freedom to be an active member in your community.

All too often, these basic freedoms are denied to older Americans and Americans with disabilities. I have noticed an alarming trend in this country: we are unnecessarily isolating people with disabilities from their communities, friends, families, and loved ones by placing them in institutional care facilities.

Many of these Americans should not be in a nursing home or other institutional setting. Many Americans with disabilities could be better served—and better integrated into their communities—by allowing them to live in community-based homes.

However, recent data indicates that 70 percent of Medicaid dollars are spent on institutional care and only 30 percent are spent on community services for the disabled. Because Medicaid requires that States provide nursing home care for Americans with disabilities but does not require the same for community-based services, many individuals with disabilities and older Americans are forced to live in isolated settings.

In order to preserve the freedoms of our friends in the disabled community and their loved ones, we must do something to reverse this trend. I would therefore like to join my distinguished colleague from Iowa as a cosponsor of the Money Follows the Person Act of 2003. The Senator from Iowa and I first introduced the provisions of this act as an amendment to S. 1, the Medicare and Prescription Drug Improvement Act of 2003.

This bill would enact the President's 2004 Money Follows the Person Program to give people with disabilities the freedom to choose where they want to live. Under this legislation, Oregon's effort to help an individual move out of an institutional facility and into a community home would be 100 percent federally funded for 1 year. After that first year, the Federal Government would pay its usual rate. Under the provisions of this bill, States can take advantage of \$350 million annually for 5 years for a total of \$1.75 billion.

These dollars can help reintegrate countless older Americans and Americans with disabilities into a setting where they can be more active citizens. For instance, this bill is supported by the Oregon Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans because it helps honor and reintegrate those veterans whose disabilities resulted from noble and selfless service to this Nation.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Olmstead Supreme Court decision, we know that the need-less institutionalization of Americans with disabilities constitutes discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Americans everywhere realize the value of integrating Americans with disabilities into our communities. Needless isolating productive citizens from their communities, whether they are disabled or not, is unfair and unjust. It is time we work to reintegrate disabled Americans back into our communities.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bill and to support the freedom of choice for Americans with disabilities.

LAOS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I rise today to express my concern over recent events in Laos. As a member of the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I have consistently monitored the human rights situation in Laos and other East Asian nations. Recent news reports indicate that the human rights situation continues to deteriorate in Laos, specifically for the Hmong ethnic group.

As many of you may know, two European journalists and their translator, a Hmong-American pastor from Minnesota, were captured by the Lao government on June 4, 2003 and sentenced to 15 years of prison. After serious diplomatic negotiations between the gov-

ernments of Belgium, France, the United States and Laos, they were released from prison on Wednesday. While I am relieved that the Lao government has freed these people, I remain concerned about the continuous allegations of human rights violations by the Lao government. Amnesty International reports that Lao nationals who accompanied the journalists remain in detention without legal representation and are being tortured with sticks and bicycle chains, which I find horrifying. I also find troubling reports by the freed journalists regarding the "sham" trials they experienced.

In addition, Time magazine has recently released two articles that accuse the government of waging a war against the Hmong ethnic community within Laos. The articles state that the Lao government attacked a Hmong village in October, killing 216 people and has threatened to "eradicate" the population of Hmong. Time magazine also claims that "no political dissent has been allowed in [Laos for] 28 years, nor any right of assembly. Scores of political prisoners and youths have been detained for years in dark cells without trial; many have been tortured."

While I cannot confirm the specific allegations of the article, many of my Hmong constituents have raised similar concerns about the human rights conditions in Laos and the welfare of their families and friends who are living there. I strongly believe that the United States cannot ignore violations in Laos. I have consistently supported efforts to promote human rights and democracy in Laos, and in the 106th Congress, sponsored a resolution calling upon the Government of Laos to recognize and to respect the basic human rights of all its citizens, including ethnic and religious minorities.

Once again, I ask the Lao government to allow international humanitarian organizations to have access to areas in which Hmong and other ethnic minorities have resettled, to allow independent monitoring of prison conditions, and to release prisoners who have been arbitrarily arrested because of their political or religious beliefs. These violations must not continue.

THE WEISS REPORT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, during consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 11, I took exception to several findings included in the Weiss Report on Medical Malpractice Caps that I believed misinterpreted the data of the Medical Liability Monitor and the National Practitioner Data Bank. Following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture, I received a report supporting my conclusions from the Physicians Insurance Association of America as well as a statement from the Division of Practitioner Data Banks. I ask unanimous consent that these documents be printed in the RECORD.